

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

1-7. (canceled)

8. (previously presented) A method of screening for a human individual's predisposition to atopy, the method comprising:

analyzing said individual for the presence of an INS157 polymorphism in TIM-1 by contacting a biological sample comprising DNA or mRNA from such individual with a probe that specifically binds to the nucleic acid sequence ATGACAACGACTGTTCCA, SEQ ID NO:22, bases 472-489, encoding the amino acid sequence MTTTVP, SEQ ID NO:25, residues 158-163;

detecting the presence of a complex formed between said probe and said genomic DNA, mRNA or a transcript thereof; and

analyzing said individual for the presence of hepatitis A virus (HAV) seropositivity wherein said seropositivity in an individual comprising an allele of TIM-1 comprising the amino acid sequence MTTTVP, SEQ ID NO:25, residues 158-163 is indicative of a reduced risk of developing atopy.

9-19. (canceled)

20. (previously presented) A method of screening for a human individual's predisposition to atopy, the method comprising:

analyzing said individual for the presence of an INS157 polymorphism in TIM-1 by contacting a biological sample comprising DNA or mRNA from said individual with a probe that specifically binds to a nucleic acid sequence encoding the amino acid sequence MTTTVP, SEQ ID NO:25, residues 158-163;

wherein the presence of said INS157 polymorphism is indicative of an individual's predisposition to develop said atopy.

21. (previously presented) The method according to Claim 20, wherein said biological sample is blood or a derivative thereof.

22. (previously presented) The method according to Claim 20, further comprising the step of:

analyzing said individual for the presence of hepatitis A virus (HAV) seropositivity,

wherein seropositivity in an individual expressing an allele of TIM-1 comprising the amino acid sequence MTTTVP, SEQ ID NO:25, residues 158-163 is indicative of a reduced risk of developing atopy.

23. (canceled)